

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair is using public airwaves free of charge to unfairly influence an election. It is appalling, especially in light of Sinclair's refusal to air a program honoring those who have given their lives to the war in Iraq saying it was too political this close to an election.

Sinclair Broadcasting is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair is not serving the public interest but is severely undermining it. When large companies control the airwaves, our democracy is threatened. It's important that media ownership become more diverse so that it can represent varied interests, provide more substantive news about the issues, and thus strengthen our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Their deplorable actions show why the license renewal process needs to have stronger standards for what constitutes serving the public interest. Thank you.